



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**TAIWANESE STUDENT SENTENCED
TO MORE THAN 12 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT
FOR DISTRIBUTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Orlando, Florida - Chief U.S. District Judge Patricia C. Fawsett today sentenced WEITING CHU, 28, of Taiwan to 12 ½ years' imprisonment for his distribution of child pornography. The sentence also calls for CHU to serve a two-year period of supervised release and a \$100 special assessment.

On September 5, 2006, CHU was charged in a one count information with distribution of child pornography. CHU pled guilty to that offense on September 14, 2006. According to the stipulated facts contained in his plea agreement, CHU is a citizen of Taiwan who entered the United States in 2005 to attend school. CHU made arrangements to live with a family in Brevard County, Florida. From that residence, CHU distributed and collected child pornography.

CHU's distribution of child pornography was discovered based on a referral to the Cyber Crimes Center from Germany. Subsequent investigation found that CHU distributed child pornography on multiple occasions in August 2005 from his residence in Brevard

County, Florida. On May 19, 2006, a federal search warrant was executed at CHU's residence. During the execution of the search warrant, CHU consented to a voluntary interview. In the ensuing interview, CHU admitted, among other things, that he had used his personal laptop computer to collect child pornography from the Internet that he then distributed to various groups and to a friend of his who lives in Taiwan. CHU admitted to directing his efforts at the collection of child pornography, and he described how he configured his computer to search the internet on a regular basis to locate such images.

A computer, a hard drive, and other computer-related equipment and storage devices were seized during the search. Forensic analyses of those items revealed that CHU possessed more than 600 images of child pornography, including at least one image of a minor under the age of 12 years old engaged in sexually explicit conduct and an image that portrayed a minor involved in sadistic or masochistic conduct.

The case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Roger B. Handberg.